

It's the first week in March and temperatures rose up into the 50's. There should not be much complaining as far as the weather goes. Unfortunately for us veterans of the Northeast, we know there's at least one Nor'easter left for us to deal with.

But while we have this nice weather, I thought I would take a chance to talk about an upcoming event at the end of April. The days only seem to fly by faster as the weeks move along. Because of that I thought it would be prudent to discuss Earth Day 2004 in this week's column. My staff has begun work on this year's festivities, which we hope will be better than ever. In the coming days a letter from me will be sent out to various neighborhood leaders around Troy, as well as anyone who has signed up to receive e-mail from the City.

Because we are new to events like Earth Day, we are going to need the cooperation from all previous participants in making the annual cleanup a success. I have no doubts that this will happen, because the people of Troy not only enjoy helping out, and gathering as a community, but also yearn for the cleanest City they can have. My administration has already begun cracking down on illegal dumping, garbage being put out too early, and the alleys around South Troy, North Central, and Lansingburgh.

This year, Earth Day will not just be a day when the City tries to clean up. Instead it will be a day that serves as a warning to those who do not intend to keep our city clean. We will make it known that we mean business, and we need residents who care to help us out, not those that want to set Troy back.

In addition to Earth Day, Department of Public Works Commissioner Bob Mirch has assured me his crews have already begun hand cleaning the sides of streets, and barring a bad storm, the City will be out street sweeping in the beginning of April.

So be on the look out for the e-mail about Earth Day, and make sure all of the people you know get involved. Until then, let's hope that storm that is destined to come, stays a little south or east this year.

Mayor Harry J. Tutunjian